

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05353 101700Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00
/042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8195

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5353

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR, PO, BR
SUBJ: BRIZOLA MEETING IN DEPARTMENT

REF: STATE 172819 AND PREVIOUS

1. REFTEL INDICATES THAT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MAKING PLANS TO RECEIVE BRIZOLA OFFICIALLY, PRESUMABLY IN WASHINGTON, AT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. NOTWITHSTANDING DEPARTMENT'S INTENTIONS TO MAKEPOINTS IN PARA 2 REFTEL TO BOTH BRIZOLA AND BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT MEETING WILL BE MISINTERPRETED HERE BY GOB AND OPPOSITION. GOB WILL JUST NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE RECEIVING BRIZOLA, WHO WOULD PRESUMABLY MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP TO WASHINGTON FOR THE PURPOSE, AT THIS DELICATE STAGE IN BRAZIL'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. OPPOSITION WILL BE IMMENSELY CURIOUS AS TO OUR MOTIVES AND INTENTIONS AND WILL STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT WE ARE INTERFERING IN ITS OWN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE MOST VIABLE POSSIBLE COUNTER-STRATEGY TO THE GOB'S DURING THE PRE-ELECTORAL AND PRE-CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PERIOD. LARGE GROUP OF BRAZILIANS WHO ARE NEITHER GOVERNMENT NOR OPPOSITION (OF WHICH BEST EXAMPLE IS PROBABLY BRAZILIAN MEDIA) AND WHO ARE ANXIOUS THAT THEIR EFFORTS SUCCEED TO RESTORE FULLY DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS WILL ALSO QUESTION WHY USG IS OFFICIALLY RECEIVING BRIZOLA IN WASHINGTON.

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2. THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING CONTACT WITH POLITICAL OPPOSITION AS PRESIDENT CARTER DID IN BRAZIL, AND ARRANGING FOR AN OFFICIAL CALL ON A HIGH US OFFICIAL AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BY A POLITICAL FIGURE WHO AT THE MOMENT HAS NO CLEAR POLITICAL STANDING OR FOLLOWING IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. DESPITE DISCLAIMERS TO THE CONTRARY, MEETING WILL BE VIEWED AS BRIZOLA SEEKING OFFICIAL USG ENDORSEMENT OF HIS DESIRE

TO RETURN TO POLITICAL POWER IN BRAZIL AND THE USG GIVING IT.
IF WASHINGTON NEVETHELESS PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH AN APPOINTMENT,
I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE USG INTERLOCUTOR BE DROPPED ANOTHER
LEVEL AND THAT, IF POSSIBLE, THE VENUE OF THE MEETING BE CHANGED.
FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR OBJECTIVE OF A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT IN BRAZIL, THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF A MEETING WITH
BRIZOLA WOULD BE DILUTED SOMEWHAT IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED
THAT THE DIRECTOR OF ARA/ECA MEET WITH HIM DURING THE COURSE
OF OTHER BUSINESS IN NEW YORK.

3. I ASSUME WE WILL RECEIVE A REPORT OF ANY MEETING AS SOON
AFTER IT TAKES PLACE AS POSSIBLE. WE ALSO NEED APPROPRIATE
PRESS GUIDANCE.
SAYRE

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